

SW AP317: Approving Employee Expenses

Web Based Training



Welcome to Cardinal Training!

This training provides employees with the skills and information necessary to use Cardinal. It is not intended to replace existing Commonwealth and/or agency policies.

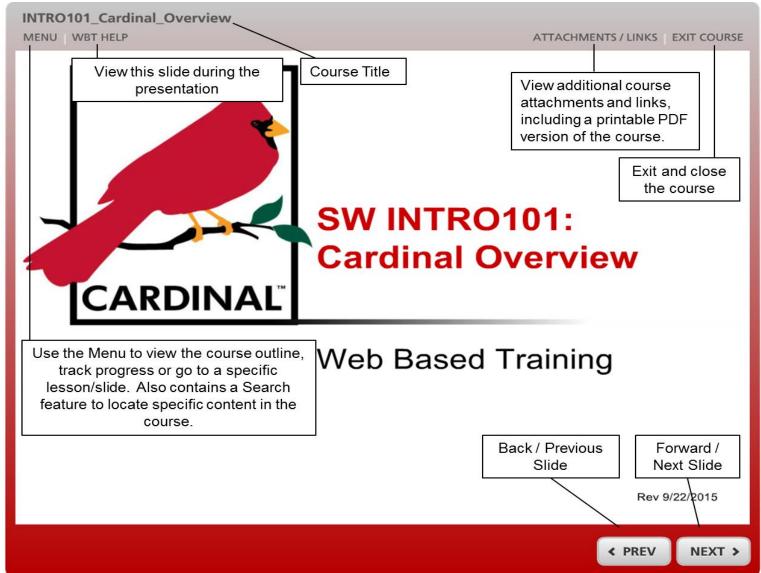
In this course, we will show you the approvals process in the Expenses module of Accounts Payable.

These training materials include diagrams, charts, screenshots, etc., that clarify various Cardinal tasks and processes. The screenshots are taken from Cardinal and show pages that not all users can access. They are included here so you can see how your specific responsibilities relate to the overall transaction or process being discussed. See the Cardinal Statewide Security Handbook for a list of available roles and descriptions.





Course Navigation





Course Objectives

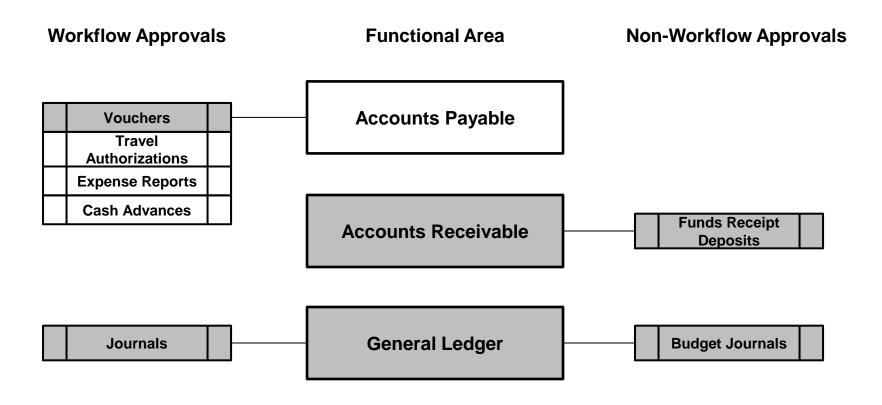
After completing this course, you will be able to:

- Approve expense items
- Deny expense items
- Send Back expense items
- Hold expense items
- Reassign expense approval items

Assessment questions will check your understanding.

Introduction

This course will focus on Expense Approvals. Cardinal uses **Workflow** to route online **Travel Authorizations**, **Expense Reports** and **Cash Advances** to the appropriate approvers' **Worklists**.





Expenses Approval Overview

Every expense transaction entered online in Cardinal must have at least one online approval. Additional approvals may be required, if certain conditions are met.

Workflow routes online expense transactions, including expense reports, travel authorizations and cash advances to your worklist for approval.

You can either approve these items from your worklist or navigate directly to the **Travel and Expense Approve Transactions** page. Cardinal does not send an email when items route to you for approval.

Interfaced expense reports receive agency level approval(s) prior to being uploaded into Cardinal. Interfaced expense reports only require online approval(s) in Cardinal if they are modified or corrected online in Cardinal or if they require DOA approval (e.g., capital outlay projects, legal services, etc.).

Interfaced cash advances do not receive agency level approval prior to being uploaded into Cardinal. Interfaced cash advances must be approved online in Cardinal.

The originator (proxy) can check the status of expense reports, cash advances and travel authorizations online.



Employee Expenses Approval Levels

Employee expenses require different levels of approval based on the type of transaction and agency workflow. There are three different types of expense approvals in Cardinal:

- Required Indicates the approval level is required for all transactions
- Conditional Indicates the approval level is required only when specific conditions are met on the transaction
- Optional Indicates the approval level is optional, based on agency preference and workflow setup

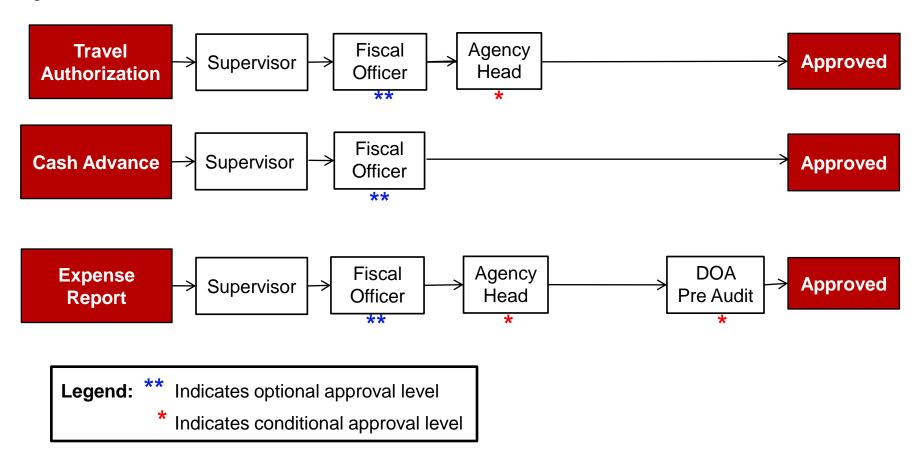
A user can be the Supervisor, Fiscal Officer or Agency Head approver in Cardinal, without actually being in that position at the agency. Cardinal allows the reassignment of approval from one approver to another based on an agency's business processes and needs.

Note: If you reassign the worklist item to an approver that has already approved it for a prior level of approval, the expense transaction will not route again to that approver but will mark it approved at that level.



Expense Approval Process Flows – Online Agencies

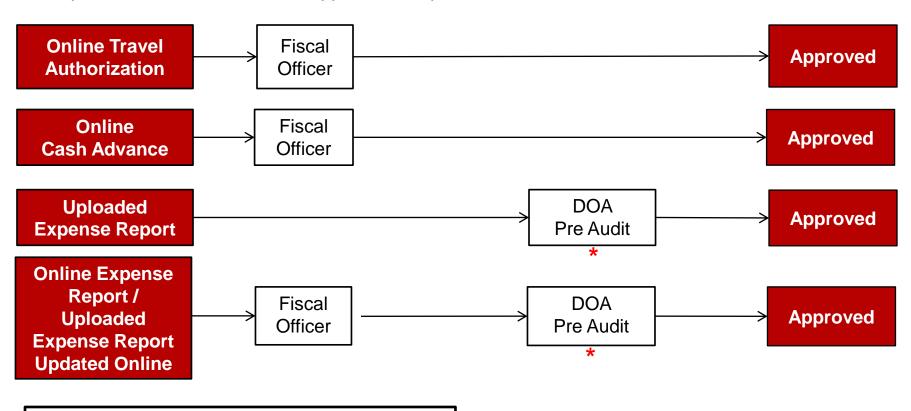
This slide shows the workflow for Travel Authorizations, Cash Advances and Expense Reports for online agencies.





Expense Approval Process Flows - Interfacing Agencies

This slide shows the workflow for interfacing agencies. Travel authorizations can only be entered online. Expense reports and cash advances can be uploaded into Cardinal. If an expense report is uploaded and then updated online, Fiscal Officer approval is required.



Legend: * Indicates conditional approval level



Travel Authorization Approvals – Online Agencies

Approval levels for **Travel Authorizations** for online agencies include:

Required Approval:

Supervisor

Optional Approval:

 Fiscal Officer – This approval is optional based on agency. For Agencies that have chosen this approval level, all travel authorizations will route to the Fiscal Officer for approval.

Conditional Approval:

 Agency Head – If the authorization exceeds \$500 or contains an expense over the allowable amount it will route to the Agency Head, identified by the agency, for approval.

Travel Authorization Approval Routing Order		
Supervisor	Required	
Fiscal Officer	Optional	
Agency Head	Conditional	



Cash Advance Approvals – Online Agencies

Approval levels for **Cash Advances** for online agencies include:

Required Approval:

Supervisor

Optional Approval:

 Fiscal Officer – This approval is optional based on agency. For agencies that choose this approval level, it applies to all cash advances for the agency.

Cash Advance Approval Routing Order	
Supervisor	Required
Fiscal Officer	Optional



Cash Advance Approvals – Interfacing Agencies

There is only one approval level for **Cash Advances** for interfacing agencies :

Required Approval:

 Fiscal Officer – This approval is required for all interfaced cash advances. These approvals are done online in Cardinal and not in the agency system.

Cash Advance Approval Routing Order	
Fiscal Officer	Required



Expense Report Approvals – Online Agencies

Approval levels for **Expense Reports** for online agencies include:

Required Approval:

Supervisor

Optional Approval:

 Fiscal Officer – This approval is optional based on agency. For agencies that require this approval level, it applies to all expense reports for the agency.

Expense Report Approval Routing Order		
Supervisor	Required	
Fiscal Officer	Optional	
Agency Head	Conditional	
DOA Pre-Audit	Conditional	

Conditional Approvals:

- Agency Head If the expense report exceeds \$500 or contains an expense over the allowable amount it will route to the Agency Head, identified by the agency, for approval.
- DOA Pre-Audit This approval is required if the Program Code begins with 9980.



Expense Approvals – Interfacing Agencies

Approval levels for expense transactions uploaded or entered online by interfacing agencies include:

Online Travel Authorization	
Fiscal Officer	Required

Required Approval:

 Fiscal Officer – This level of approval is required for interfacing agencies when a transaction is entered or updated online.

Online Cash Advance	
Fiscal Officer	Required

Conditional Approval:

 DOA Pre-Audit - This approval is required if the Program Code begins with 9980.

DOA Pre-Audit Conditional

Online Expense Report / Uploaded Expense Report Updated Online	
Fiscal Officer	Required
DOA Pre-Audit	Conditional



Expenses Notifications

Once the expense transaction is submitted for approval, the originator (proxy) cannot modify it. If it needs to be modified, an approver must first send back the transaction. The originator can then modify the transaction and resubmit it. It then routes to the first approver on the approval path.

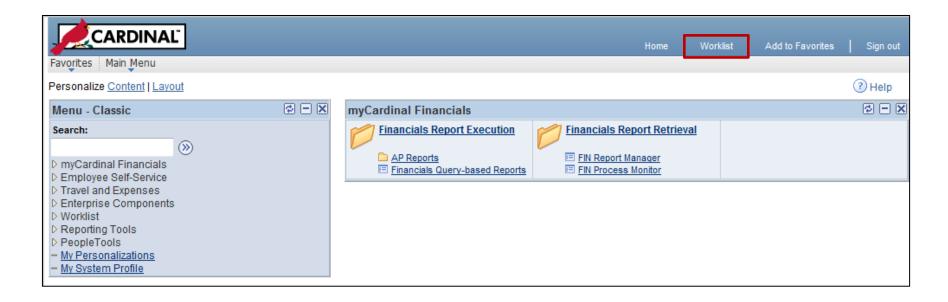
Cardinal notifies the originator (proxy) of expense items that are denied or sent back. Cardinal sends an email to the originator if the expense is denied. Cardinal sends both an email and a worklist notification if the expense transaction is sent back for revision. The originator can check the approval status of the expense transactions online.

No notifications are sent for transactions that are approved.

Approval Steps

You can access the approvals pages for employee expense reports, cash advances, and travel authorizations either from the worklist link or by navigating directly to the **Approve Transactions** page.

To approve using the worklist, click the worklist link located at the top of the **Home** page.





Approval Steps (continued)

You can access the **Approve Transactions** page for an employee expense report, travel authorization or cash advance through the worklist.

Click the link on the worklist for the expense transaction that you need to approve.

- ERApproval for Expense Reports
- TAApproval for Travel Authorizations
- CAApproval for Cash Advance

Review all details based on relevant polices before approving the transaction.



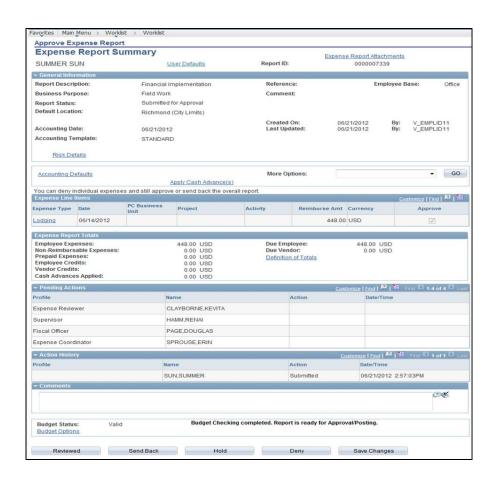
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Expense Report Approval Steps

The approval steps for the Travel Authorization, Expense Report and Cash Advance are similar. For this example, the Expense Report is selected.

The Approve Expense Report, Expense Report Summary page displays. This is the page that is used to review the details of the expense. Review the transaction details, based on relevant policies.



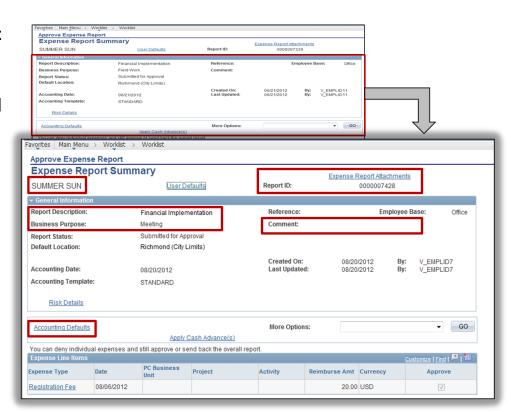
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Expense Report Summary Page – Top Section

The top portion of the **Approve Expense Report** page includes **General Information**. Some examples of information in this section include:

- Employee Name employee who incurred the expense
- Expense Report Attachments link additional documentation attached to the report
- Report ID ID number automatically assigned to the report in Cardinal or submitted by interfacing agency in the upload
- Report Description brief description of the travel and/or expense
- Business Purpose reason for the expense
- Comment displays applicable comments
- Accounting Defaults link –displays the accounting distribution defaults for the employee

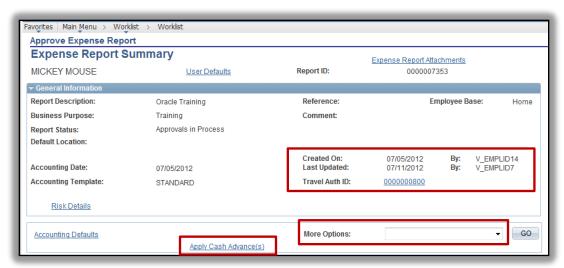


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Expense Report Summary Page – Top Section (continued)

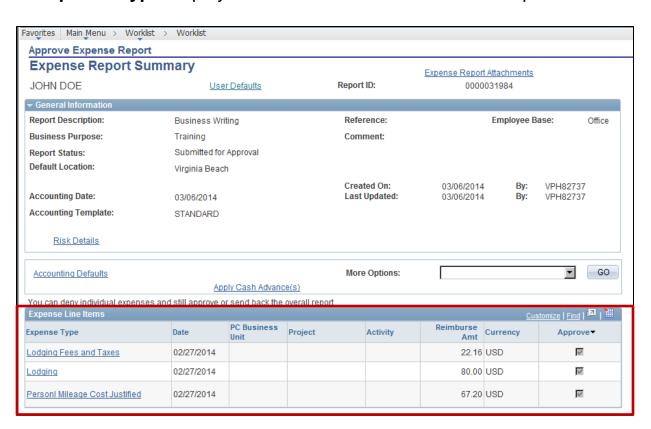
- Created On and By date created and name of person who created it
- Last Updated and By date last updated or approved and name of person who updated or approved it
- Travel Auth ID link this link displays only when the expense report was copied from a travel authorization. Select this link to view the original travel authorization from which the expense report was copied.
- View Cash Advances link this link displays if there are any cash advances associated to this
 report.
- More Options select and display any Exception Comments if applicable. Exception comments are
 provided on the expense line if the amount entered on an expense line is more than the calculated
 allowable amount in Cardinal.



Expense Line Items

The next section of the **Approve Expense Report** page contains the **Expense Line items** which include the **Expense Type** (e.g., lodging, fees, meals, etc.), **Date** and **Reimbursement Amount**.

The link for each **Expense Type** displays additional details related to the expense.

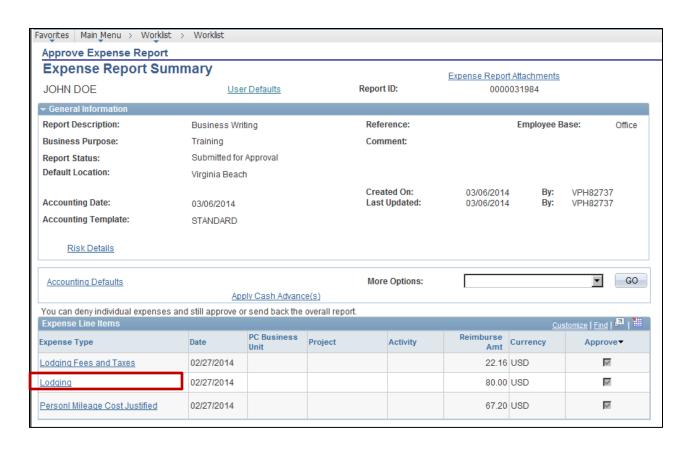




Expense Line Items – Distribution Detail

As an approver, review the charge distribution for each expense item:

Click the Expense Item you want to view. For this example, Lodging.

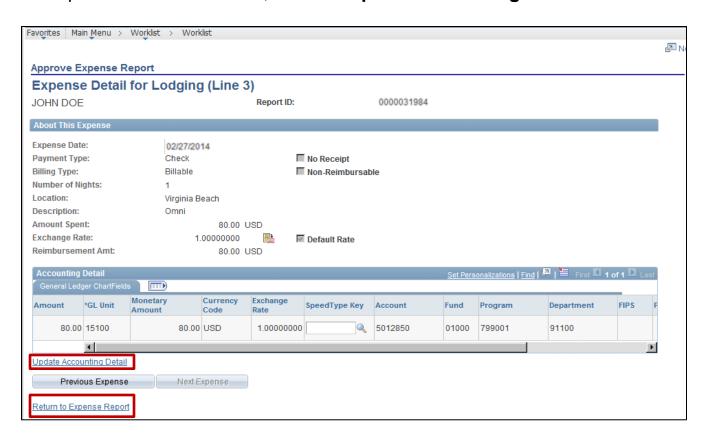




Expense Line Items – Distribution Detail (continued)

The **Expense Detail for** the selected **Expense Type** displays. If the distribution is correct, click the **Return to Expense Report** link to return to the Expense Report.

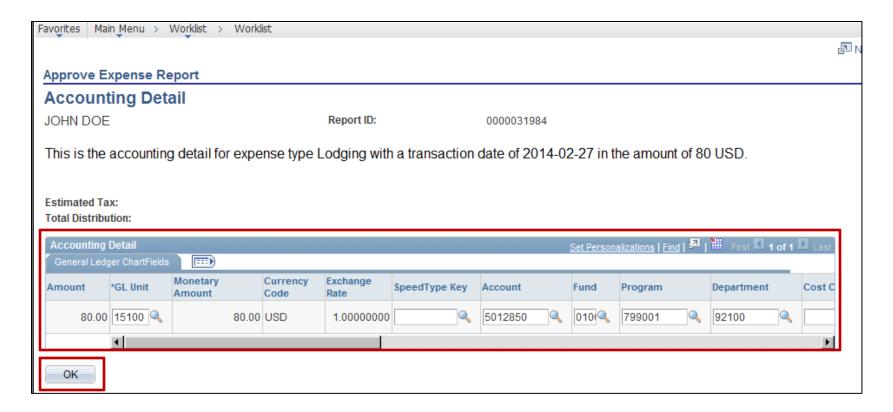
If changes are required to the distribution, click the **Update Accounting Detail** link.





Expense Line Items – Updating Distribution Detail

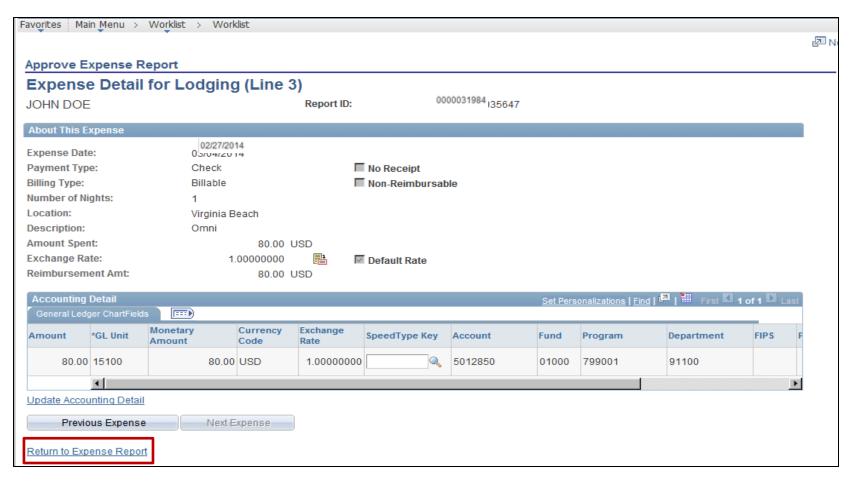
- After clicking the Update Accounting Detail link, the Accounting Detail page displays.
- · Make any necessary adjustments to the distribution.
- Click the OK button to return to the Expense Detail page.





Expense Line Items – Updating Distribution Detail (continued)

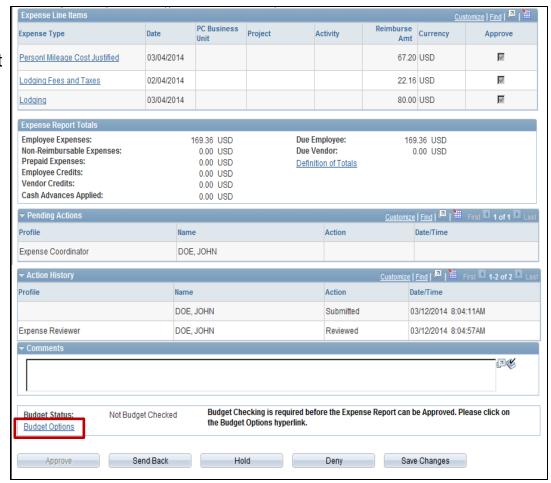
Click the Return to Expense Report link.





Expense Line Items – Updating Distribution Detail (continued)

 When a change is made to the accounting distribution on an expense report, the expense report will need to be re-budget checked before approval. Click the **Budget Options** link.

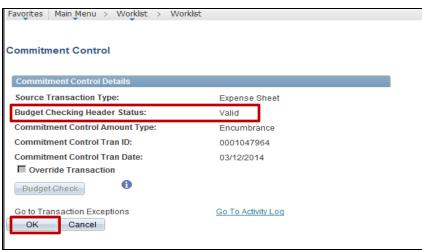




Expense Line Items – Updating Distribution Detail (continued)

- Click the Budget Check button to run budget checking.
- After budget check has run the Budget Checking Header Status changes:
 - Valid indicates the expense report passed budget check
 - Error indicates the expense report did not pass budget checking.
- Click the **OK** button to return to the expense report.



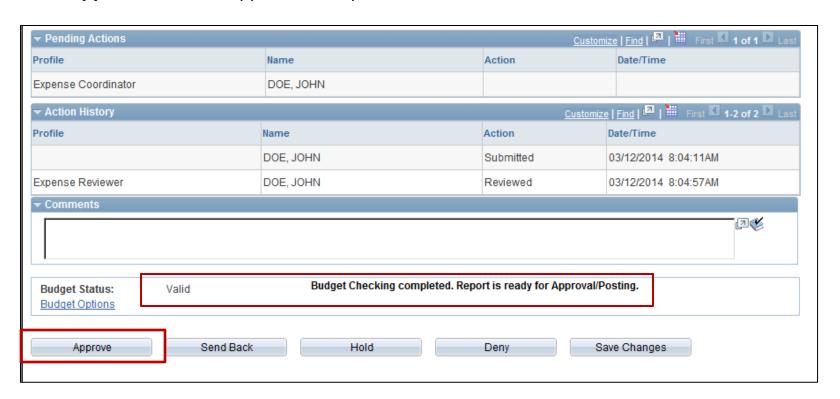




Expense Line Items – Updating Distribution Detail (continued)

The Budget Status field displays Valid and indicates that Budget Checking completed. Report is ready for Approval/Posting.

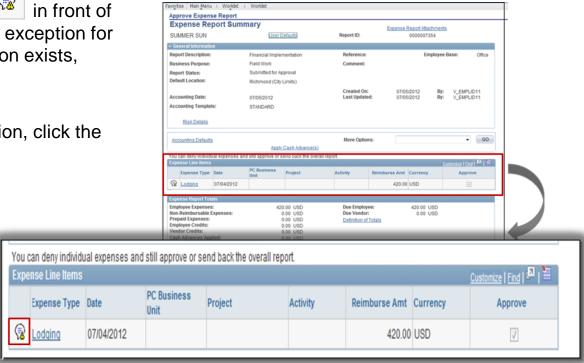
Click the **Approve** button to approve the report.





Expense Line Items - Exceptions

- If you see an **Exceptions** icon in front of an **Expense Type** it indicates an exception for that line (e.g., duplicate transaction exists, amount over allowable, etc.).
- To see the reason for the exception, click the Exceptions icon.



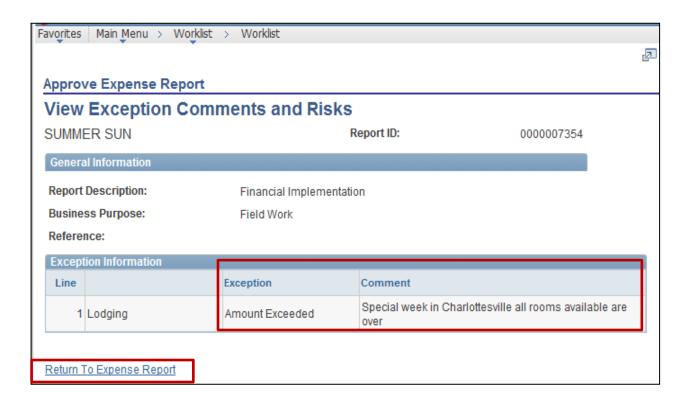
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View Exception Comments and Risks Page

The **View Exception Comments and Risks** page opens and displays the reason for the **Exception**. In this example, the amount of the lodging is over the allowable limit. You are also able to view associated comments related to the exception in the **Comment** field.

Click the Return to Expense Report link to return to the Approve Expense Report page.

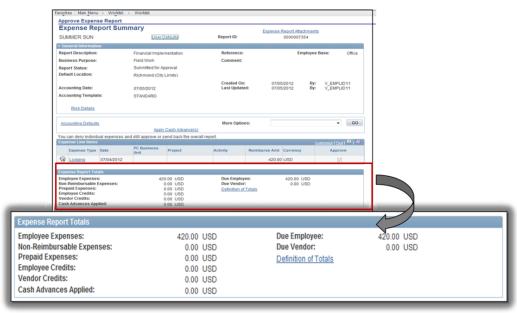




Expense Report Summary Page - Totals Section

The next section of the **Approve Expense Report** page includes:

- Expense Report Totals lists the total expenditures for the expense report by category (e.g, employee expense, non-reimbursable expense, cash advances applied, etc.)
- Use the **Definition of Totals** link to access an explanation of each category under the Expense Report Totals section.

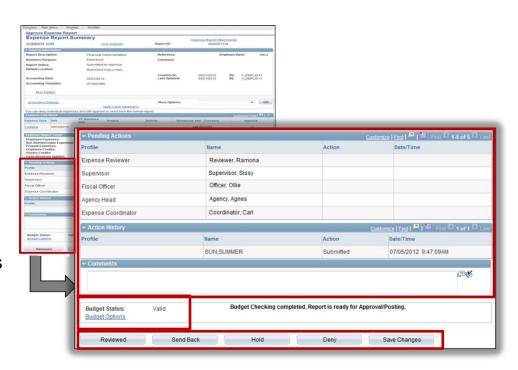




Expense Report – Pending Actions

The bottom section of the **Approve Expense Report** page includes:

- Pending Actions displays the approvals that are still pending
- Action History displays the actions that have been taken on the expense to date
- Comments contains Approver comments
- Budget Status displays budget check status
- Action Buttons actions available to you as an approver
- Budget Options link allows the approver to budget check the expense report.



Click the image to enlarge



Expense Report Approval Options

Once you have reviewed the Expense Report, you have several options:

Click the Approve button to approve the expense transaction. If more than one approver is required, the status changes to Approval in Process until the last authorized approver approves the employee expense for payment. After the last approval, the status changes to Approved for Payment and the employee expense is ready for payment processing. At the Reviewer level, the Approve button is the Reviewed button.

If you are approving an expense report and it requires a change to the charge distribution, Cardinal allows you (the approver) to modify it without sending it back. Once you update the charge distribution, you can proceed with your approval.

- Click the **Send Back** button to send the expense transaction back to the originator for correction or revision. This action changes the status to **Pending**. If you send back an expense report, you must provide an explanation in the **Comments** field. Cardinal sends an e-mail and worklist notification to the originator (proxy) indicating the expense was sent back.
- Click the Hold button to place an expense transaction on hold. This changes the status to Hold by Approver. Placing a transaction on hold reserves it for later action related to approval. The hold feature also allows you to prevent other approvers from taking action on the item.



Expense Report Approval Options (continued)

- Click the **Deny** button to deny the expense transaction. This changes the status to **Denied** and Cardinal sends an email to the originator (proxy) indicating that the expense was denied. If you deny a transaction, provide an explanation in the **Comments** field. The originator cannot correct and resubmit the expense if denied.
- Do <u>not</u> click the **Save Changes** button. If you make modifications to the expense transactions, you should budget check and then approve.



Expense Report Approvals via Direct Navigation

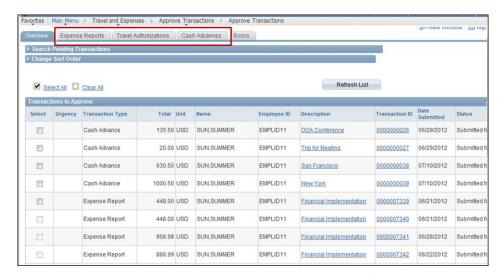
You can also approve an expense report by directly navigating to the **Approve Transactions** page using the following path:

Main Menu > Travel and Expenses > Approve Transactions

This opens the **Approve Transactions Overview** page. This page provides a list of all the pending transactions that require approval.
Use the tabs at the top to specify a list by **Expense Report**, **Travel Authorization** or **Cash Advance** expense type.

Click the **Description** or **Transaction ID** link for the item you want to approve.

Once the expense report, travel authorization or cash advance is open, the steps to approve are the same as selecting from the worklist.



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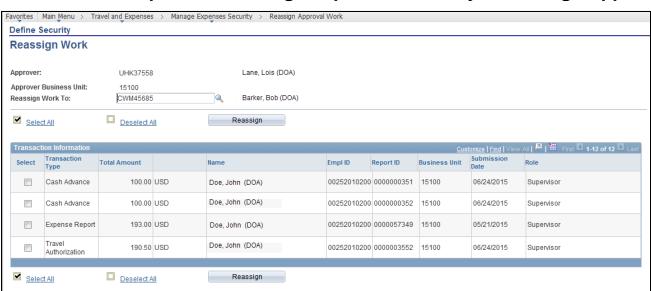


Reassigning Expense Approvals

Employee expense items can be reassigned to another approver on the **Reassign Approval Work** page by a user with the appropriate security role in Cardinal.

You can navigate to this page using the following path:

Main Menu > Travel and Expenses > Manage Expenses Security > Reassign Approval Work



See the Reassign Employee Expense Approvals job aid on the <u>Cardinal website</u> under Statewide Toolbox > Job Aids > Accounts Payable for more details.



Simulation: Approving an Expense Report

You are about to view a simulation on approving, denying, or sending back an employee expense in Cardinal. Click the Cardinal logo below to start the simulation.





Lesson Checkpoint

Now is your opportunity to check your understanding of the material. Read the question, select your answer and click **Submit** to see if you chose the correct answer.



You can access the **Approve Transactions** page using your worklist link or by direct navigation.

- True
- False

Interfaced expense reports only require approval(s) at the agency level in Cardinal if the expense report is modified or corrected online in Cardinal.

- True
- False

At the bottom of the Approve Expense Report page, you can view the approvals that are still pending by viewing which section?

- Action History
- Pending Actions
- Budget Status

A user can be a Supervisor, Fiscal Officer or Agency Head approver in Cardinal, without actually being in that position at the agency. Cardinal allows delegation of approval to others to handle different levels of approval, based on an agency's business processes and needs.

- True
- False



In this course, you learned how to:

- Approve expense items
- Deny expense items
- Send Back expense items
- Hold expense items
- Reassign expense approval items

Congratulations! You have completed the **AP317: Approving Employee Expenses** course. Please use the evaluation link to assess this course.

Click here to access the survey link

Once you have completed and submitted the survey, close the window. To close the web based training course, click the Exit Course button.





Screenshots



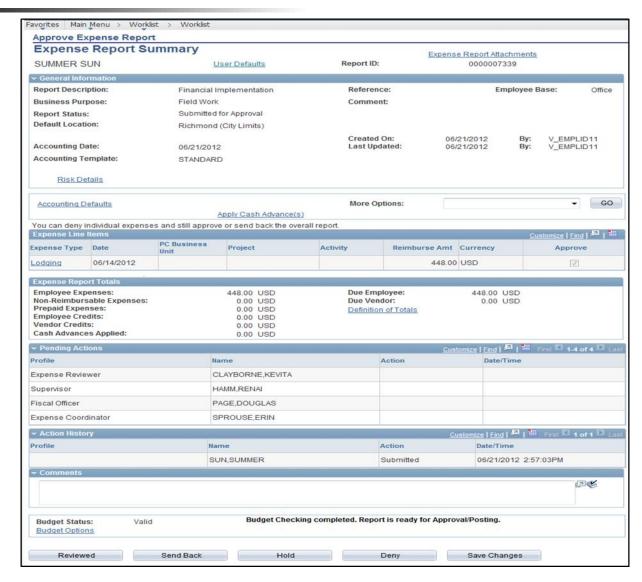
Expenses Worklist



Click the image to return

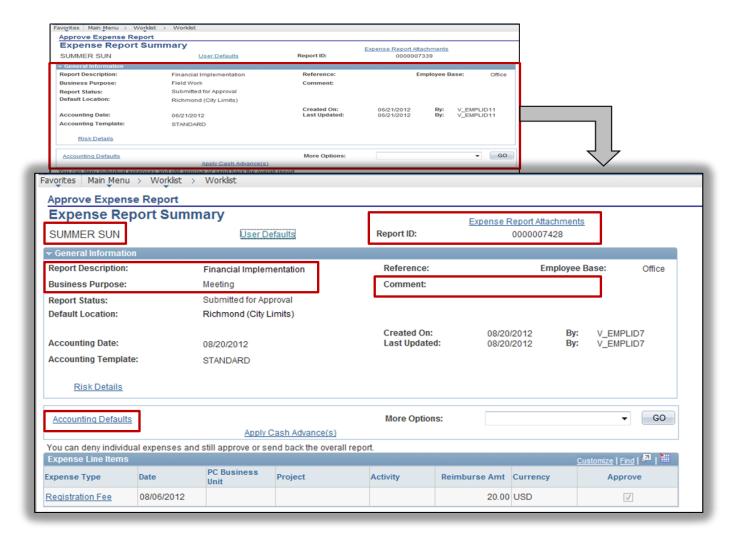


Expense Report Summary Page





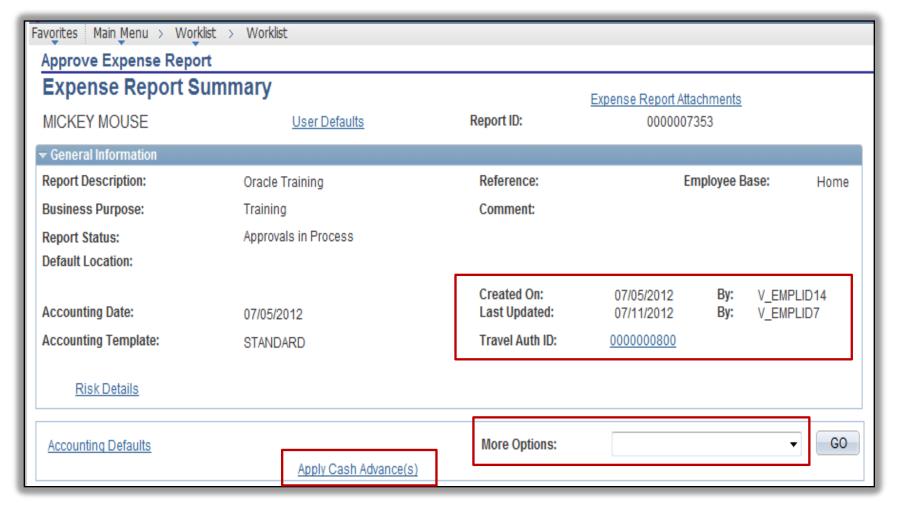
Expense Report Summary Page – Top Section



Click the image to return



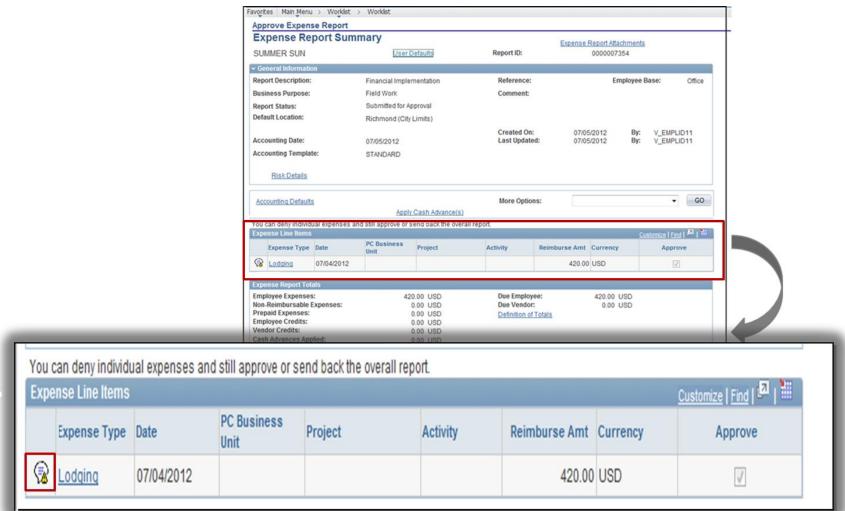
Expense Report Summary Page – Top Section (continued)



Click the image to return

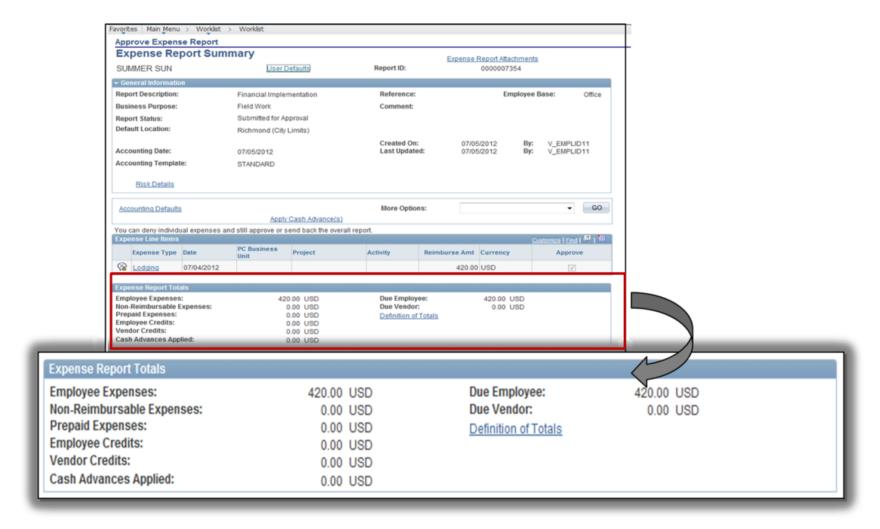


Expense Line Items – Exceptions



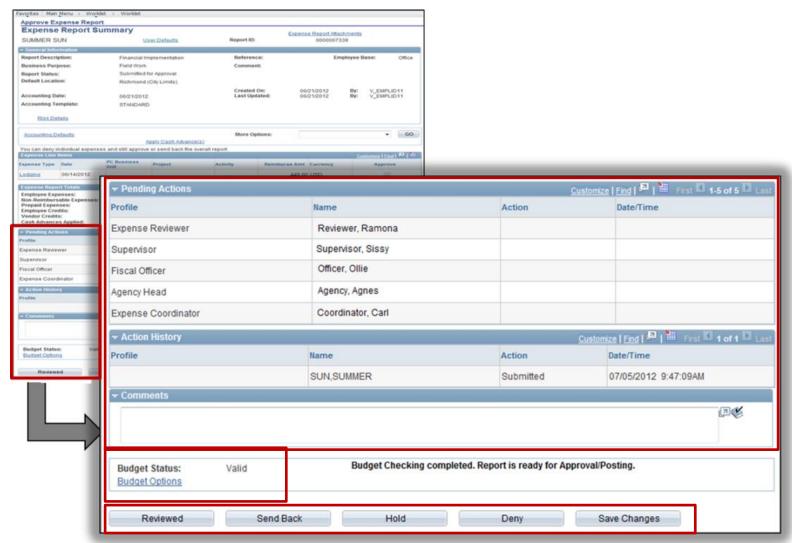


Expense Report Summary Page – Totals Section



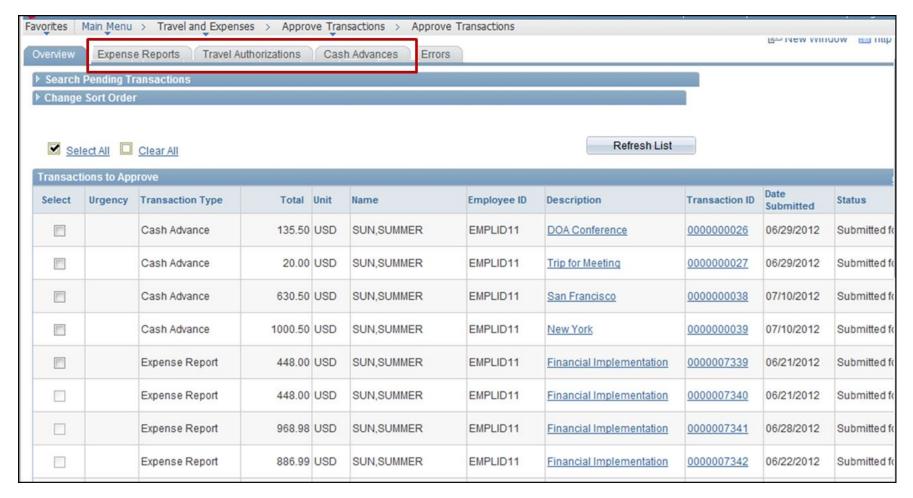


Expense Report – Pending Actions





Approve Transactions Page



Click the image to return